

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:CEBARTCH:NR

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192555

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, VIGNES, ALBERTO J. AR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO VIGNES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5441

FOR AMBASSADOR HILL FROM ASISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. IN ADDITION TO YOUR REFTEL RECOMMENDING LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY FROM VIGNES, WE HAVE RECEIVED CABLE DATED AUGUST 11 FROM VIGNES TO THE SECRETARY, CONTAINING FOLLOWING TEXT (IN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION):

"UPON LEAVING THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND WORSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA, I WISH TO STATE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WORK WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE BILATERAL RELATIONS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN THE MULTILATERAL FORUMS IN WHICH WE HAVE WORKED. BOTH CONFIDENTIAL

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TASKS I WILL HOLD AS CHERISHED REMEMBRANCES OF MY

DIPLOMATIC CAREER. ACCEPT EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES
OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND FRIENDSHIP.#

2. ALTHOUGH I AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE A THOUGHTFUL
GESTURE FOR THE SECRETARY TO SEND MESSAGE TO VIGNES,
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FRIENDLY TONE OF VIGNE'S CABLE,
I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE SECRETARY TO SEND VIGNES A
MESSAGE IN WRITING, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. VIGNES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY SEEK TO
PUBLICIZE FACT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM THE SECRETARY.

2. VIGNES WAS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH LOPEZ REGA,
AND IT WAS FOR THAT REASON, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, THAT
VIGNES WAS FORCED TO RESIGN. IN VIEW OF THIS, ANY
FURTHER ASSOCIATION BY THE SECRETARY WITH VIGNES
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT HE IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN MIGHT BE
MISINTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION OF US SYMPATHY WITH
LOPEZ REGA AND HIS COHORTS.

3. CRIMINAL CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST
VIGNES IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THESE CHARGES WERE POLITICALLY INSPIRED, AS FAR
AS WE ARE AWARE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN.

3. DESPITE THESE CONSIDERATIONS, I SEE NO REASON WHY
YOU SHOULD NOT INFORM VIGNES ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION
THAT THE SECRETARY APPRECIATED RECEIVING VIGNES' MESSAGE
AND ASKED YOU TO CONVEY TO HIM AND MRS. VIGNES THE VERY
BEST WISHES OF THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER. KISSINGER

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To: BUENOS AIRES
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